

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/824,112

Examiner

Jon A Szumny

Applicant(s)

GLENN, JAMES L.

Art Unit

3632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to April 14, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-31.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 8/13/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

This is the first office action for application number 10/824,112, Laundry Stand, filed on April 14, 2004.

Information Disclosure Statement

Receipt is acknowledged of Form PTO-1449, Information Disclosure Statement, which has been reviewed by the Examiner.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Nelson Nolte on November 30, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the abstract, line 1, "The present disclosure provides a" has been changed to --A--;

On page 5, line 12, "crossbars" has been changed to --crossrods--;

On line 14, "crossbars" has been changed to --crossrods--;

On line 20, "cross bars" has been changed to --crossrods--;

On page 9, line 8, "crossbar" and "crossbars" have been changed to --crossrod-- and --crossrods--, respectively;

On lines 17 and 21, "crossbars" has been changed to --crossrods--;

On page 10, line 4, "adjacent" has been changed to --two--;

On page 13, "adjacent crossbar" has been changed to --other crossrod--;

In claim 2, line 2, "distal ends of an elongated member" has been changed to --a distal end of each of two elongated members--;

In claim 3, lines 2-3, "distal ends of an elongated member of the first end frame and an elongated member of the second end frame, respectively" has been changed to --a distal end of each of two elongated members of the second end frame--;

In claim 8, "crossbar" has been changed to --crossrod that is--;

In claim 9, line 2, "adjacent crossbars" has been changed to --crossrods--;

In claims 10 and 11, line 1, "crossbar has" has been changed to --crossrods have--;

In claims 12-15, line 1, "wherein the" has been changed to --wherein each--;

In claims 16 and 17, line 2, "comprise" has been changed to --comprises--;

In claim 18, line 23, "comprise" has been changed to --comprises--;

In claim 19, line 2, "distal ends of an elongated member" has been changed to --a distal end of each of two elongated members--;

In claim 20, lines 2-3, "distal ends of an elongated member of the first end frame and an elongated member of the second end frame, respectively" has been changed to --a distal end of each of two elongated members of the second end frame--;

In claim 25, line 2, "crossbar" has been changed to --crossrod that is--;

In claim 26, line 2, "adjacent crossbars" has been changed to --crossrods--;

In claims 27 and 28, line 1, "the crossbar" has been changed to --each crossrod--;

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In claims 29 and 30, line 1, “wherein the” has been changed to “--wherein each--”;

In claim 31, lines 23-24, “distal ends of an elongated member” has been changed to “--a distal end of each of two elongated members--”;

In lines 25-27, “distal ends of an elongated member of the first end frame and an elongated member of the second end frame, respectively” has been changed to “--a distal end of each of two elongated members of the second end frame--”;

In line 28, “crossbar” has been changed to “--crossrod--”;

In lines 34-40, “wherein the slot... ..elongated member; and” has been deleted;

In line 41, “pair” has been changed to “--pairs--”;

In the last line, “member” has been changed to “--member; and

wherein the slot in the sleeve connector divides the sleeve connector enlarged end portion and part of the hollow body into at least two tails, the enlarged end portion of each tail having an engagement surface so that when the enlarged end portion passes through the aligned bores of a pair of elongated members, the engagement surfaces of the tail abut the interior surface of the interior elongated member.--”.

In the drawings, the applicant will submit formal drawings identical to those as attached to this office action; these drawings now include all reference numerals from the specification.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-31 are allowed.

The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1, 18 and 31, Schmitt '470 divulges a laundry stand comprised of pairs of scissor linkages, wherein the stand comprises a plurality of pairs of elongated members, each pair of elongated members having aligned bores through which a sleeve connector is inserted to pivotally connect the pair of elongated members to form a plurality of scissor linkages, at least one end of each of the elongated members defining corresponding bores through which the sleeve connectors are inserted to join two scissor linkages to form a first end frame, and at least two scissor linkages being joinable to form a second end frame, each of the sleeve connectors having an enlarged head portion, a hollow body portion defining a central bore, and an end portion having a greater diameter than the hollow body portion, wherein the sleeve connectors each comprise an inwardly formed resilient tab; and wherein the stand includes a plurality of crossrods comprising two end connectors formed or attached on either end of the crossrod, wherein the end connectors includes an extension portion and an abutment member, the end connector further defines a groove and an engagement surface upon the abutment member, wherein when the end connector is inserted into the central bore of the sleeve connector, the inwardly formed resilient tab contacts the engagement surface of the abutment member to prevent removal of the crossrod from the sleeve connector.

However, Schmitt '470 fails to specifically teach each sleeve connector to further define a slot in the end portion that allows the end portion to resiliently deflect inwardly to allow it to pass through the bore of an elongated member, and wherein each end connector comprises an enlarged portion that is in addition to the extension portion, abutment member, groove and engagement surface.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Wion '642, Kalgren '415, Mosher, Jr. et al. '963, Dixon et al. '317, Gomes '705, Basore '123 and Li '553 teach various laundry stands and sleeve connectors.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jon A Szumny whose telephone number is (703) 306-3403. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8-4.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application and proceeding are assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is

(703) 308-1113.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Szumny', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jon Szumny
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3600
Art Unit 3632
December 8, 2004

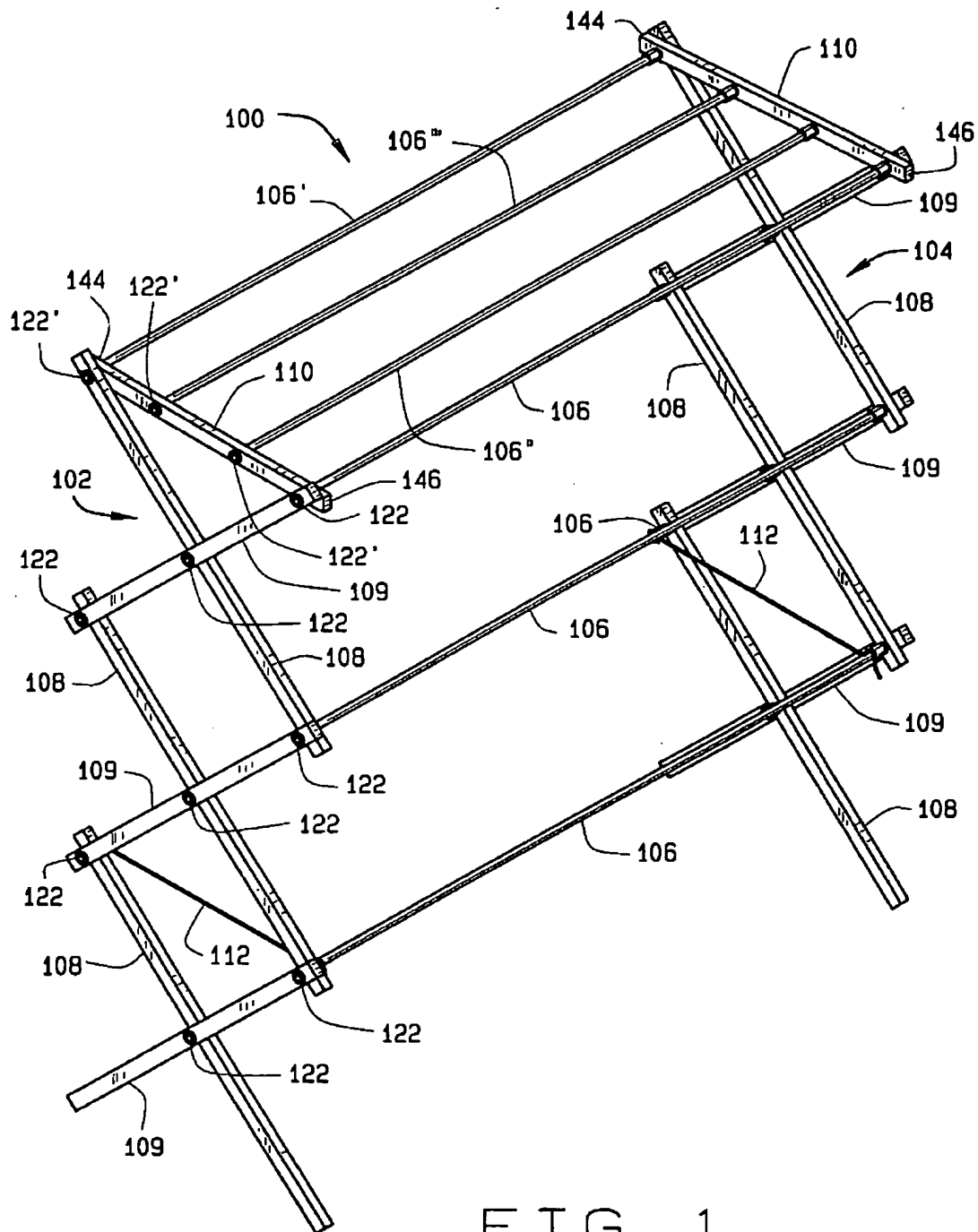
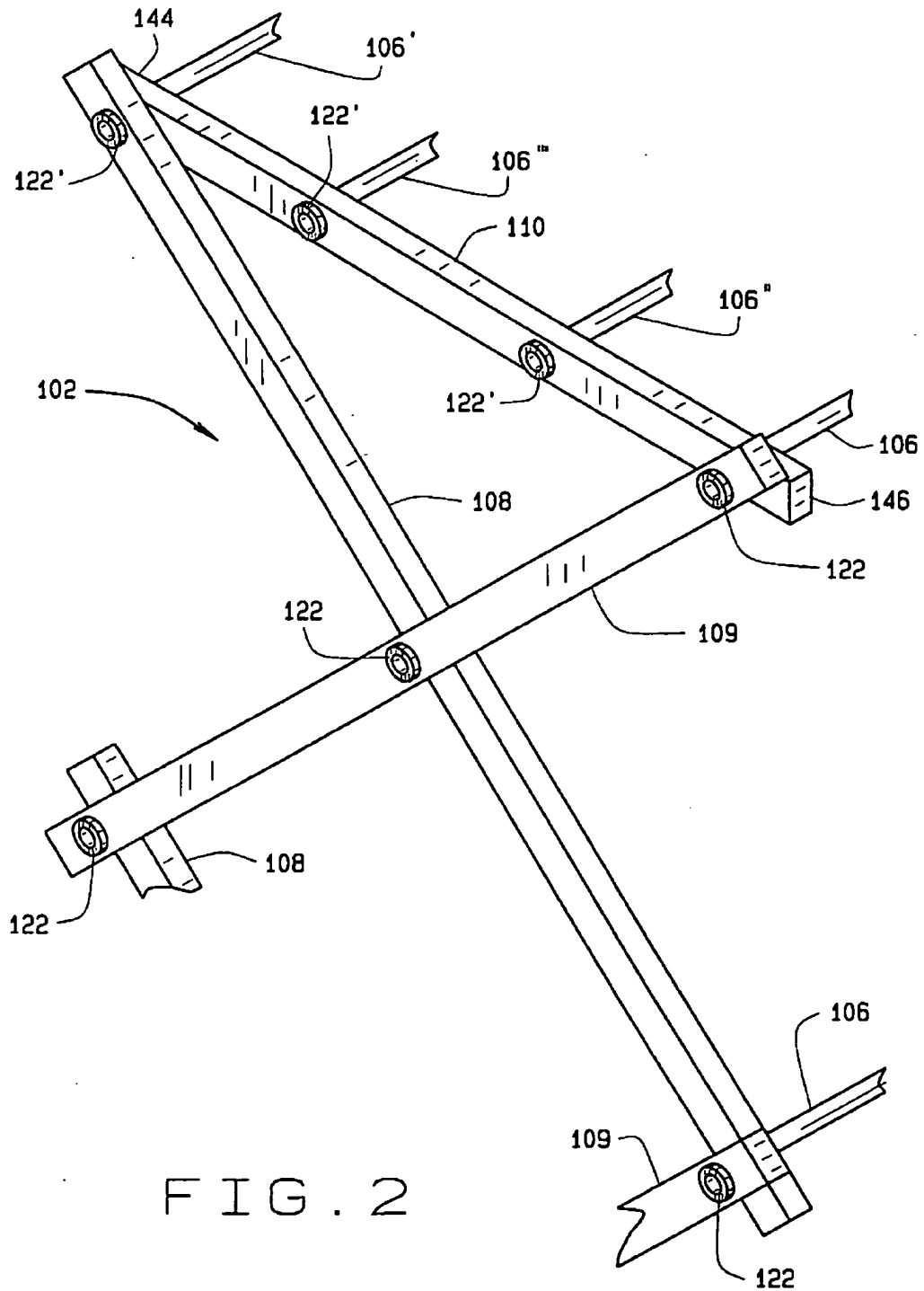
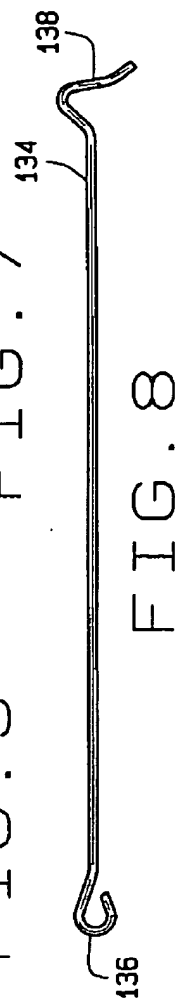
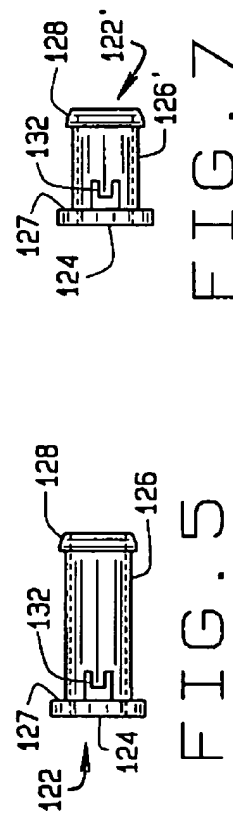
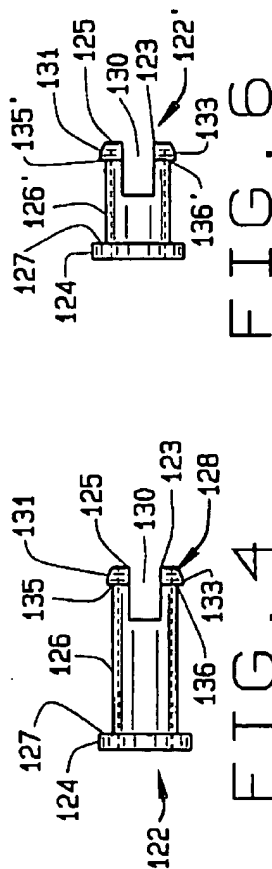
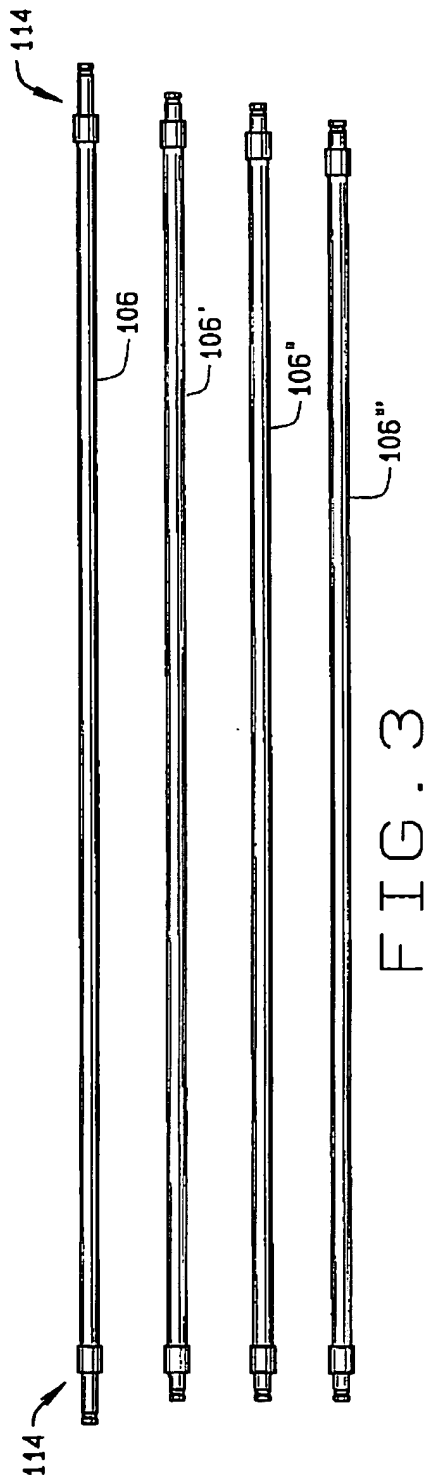


FIG. 1





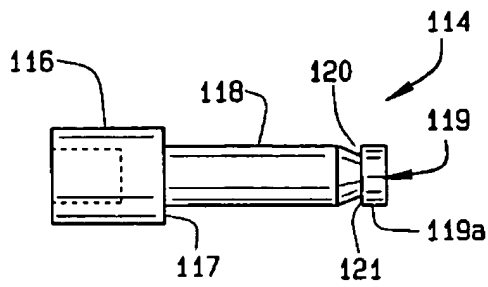


FIG. 9A

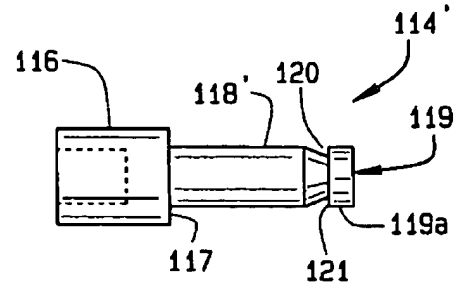


FIG. 9B

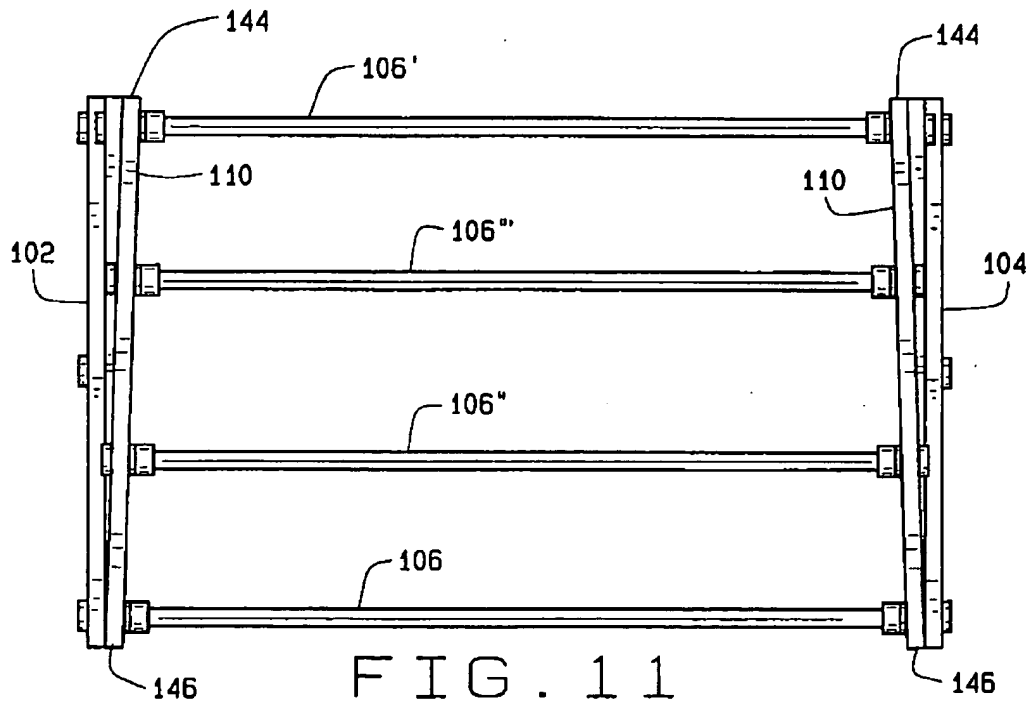


FIG. 11

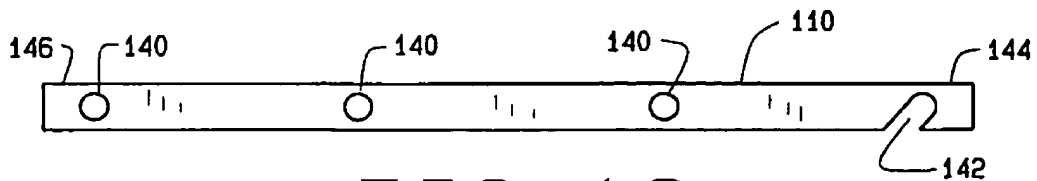


FIG. 12

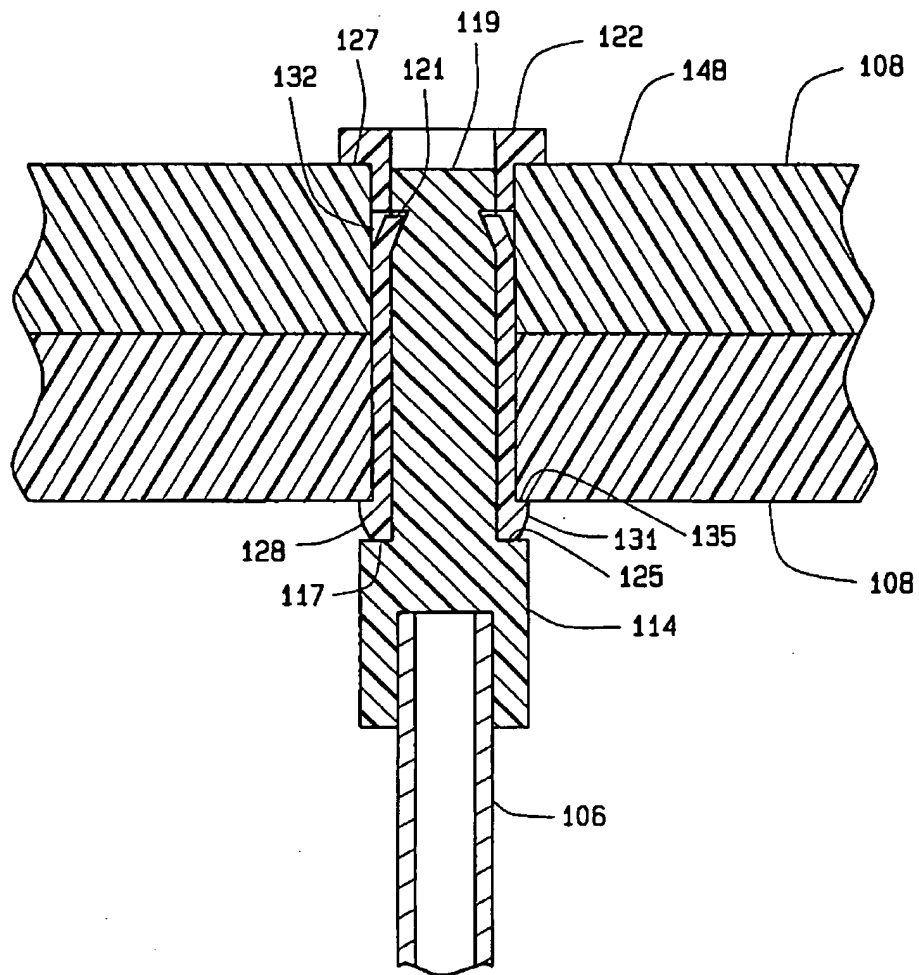


FIG. 10

[Signature]
 JON SZUMNY
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